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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Carl J. Evens on 08/24/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claim:

55. (Currently Amended) A device for locally contacting aortic valve leaflets with a demineralization fluid, the device comprising:

a central shaft;

three distinct fluid contact elements arranged around the central shaft, each fluid contacting element comprising a porous applicator affixed to an impermeable backing, wherein the impermeable backing is located only at proximal end of the porous applicator; the distal ends of the fluid contacting elements being configured to fit snugly inside of the aortic sinus;

fluid delivery elements for delivering a demineralization fluid from a source to the porous applicators;

a shunt positioned within the central shaft and concentrically mounted therein for providing blood flow from the ventricle;

an aspiration lumen formed from a gap between the shunt and the central shaft; and

a valve occluder mounted to the central shaft, the valve occluder being configured to sit flush with the ventricular side of the aortic valve leaflets.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 55 is allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to QUYNH-NHU H. VU whose telephone number is (571)272-3228. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00 am to 3:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nicholas Lucchesi can be reached on 571-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nicholas D Lucchesi/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3763

/Quynh-Nhu H. Vu/
Examiner, Art Unit 3763